



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HERNANDEZ JR., GAFFALIONE BATTLE FOR SEPTEMBER MEET LEADING JOCKEY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021) – Jockey **Brian Hernandez Jr.** entered Sunday's closing day program of the September Meet in pursuit of his second leading rider title at Churchill Downs and held a two-win margin, 14-12, over five-time titlist **Tyler Gaffalione**.

Hernandez, who recorded his 700th-career win beneath the Twin Spires Thursday and winner of the 2018 Spring Meet title, had mounts in Races 8-10 while five-time local leader Gaffalione had calls in Races 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

Jockey **Joe Talamo** entered Sunday in third with 10 wins but would have to win with all five of his mounts (Races 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10) to surpass Hernandez.

In the leading trainer standings, **Kenny McPeck** held an 8-7 win lead over **Steve Asmussen**. McPeck, a three-time Churchill Downs leading trainer, had four horses entered across three races (7, 8 and 10) while record 24-time leading trainer Asmussen had six runners in four races (6, 7, 9 and 10). **Dale Romans**, a 14-time Churchill Downs top trainer, was third in the standings with six wins and could tie McPeck with two entries (8 and 10).

The partnership of **WinStar Farm** (2018 September Meet co-leading owners) and **Siena Farm** led all owners with three wins but did not have any entries Sunday. **Columbine Stable** and **Lothenbach Stables** were both one win behind. Columbine Stable, winner of the 2019 Fall Meet title, had one entry in Race 6 while Lothenbach Stables had runners in Races 3 and 10. **Courtlandt Farms** could tie WinStar Farm and Siena Farm with entrants in Races 9 and 10.

All presentations for the September Meet champions will take place in the **Woodford Reserve Winner's Circle** immediately after the final race of the meet.

Racing in Kentucky will transition to Keeneland for their Fall Meet beginning on Oct. 8. The Churchill Downs Fall Meet will begin Sunday, Oct. 31 with "Stars of Tomorrow I" featuring all 2-year-old races. For more information, visit www.churchilldowns.com.

MANDATORY PAYOUT IN DERBY CITY 6 SUNDAY – A lucrative total Derby City 6 carryover pool of \$78,530 awaits bettors Sunday for closing day of Churchill Downs' 12-day September Meet.

Because Sunday is closing day, there is a mandatory Derby City 6 payout with all monies distributed to ticket holders with the most winners in the six-race series. Sunday's Derby City 6, which only costs 20 cents per combination, is scheduled to cover Races 5-10 starting at approximately 2:45 p.m. (all times Eastern).

Takeout on the Derby City 6 is just 15 percent, which is one of the lowest multi-race wager takeout rates in American racing.

Fans can wager on the Derby City 6 on track at Churchill Downs; www.TwinSpires.com, the track's official online wagering platform; other online wagering outlets; and select satellite betting centers throughout North America.

The first of 10 races Sunday is 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern).

There also is a \$4,442 carryover in the \$1 Super Hi-5 Race 10 finale, which also must be paid out.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Likely Breeders' Cup Classic (Grade I) favorite **Knicks Go** earned a 102 Brisnet speed rating for his four-length win in Saturday's \$400,000 Lukas Classic (GIII) while his stablemate **Plainsman** earned a 100 rating for his one-length score in the \$300,000 Ack Ack (GIII). ... Trainer **Bernie Flint** was one win away from 500 Churchill Downs victories while **Dallas Stewart** was one away from 300 wins. Both trainers had one entry Sunday. Flint has **Ginny B** (8-1) in Race 5, while Stewart has **Liberty Isle** (4-1) in the 10th race finale.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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